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N Chapman
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Austin
Application No.: 09/966,686
Filed: October 1, 2001
For: Apparatus for Uniform Reduction of a Medical Device
Examiner: Marc Quemuel Jimenez
Group Art Unit: 3726

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No: S63.2-10142

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 2, 2002. An RCE will be filed along with this amendment. Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 27, 29, 35 and 37 with the following amended claims:

27. (Amended) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of
a) providing a plurality of closely spaced wedge-shaped movable dies having a length and a stent contacting portion, the dies disposed about a circle and defining an aperture;
b) placing a stent within the aperture so as to surround the stent with the dies;
c) moving the dies such that the dies exert a uniform force to the stent along the length of the stent contacting portion of the dies so as to reduce the size of the aperture.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of cooling the temperature of the dies below ambient temperature.